

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

April 24, 2009 to May 21, 2009

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a federal action to determine if it is consistent with the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The act seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT :

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Nation Marine Fisheries Service proposes to implement Amendment 1 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan. The proposed action under this amendment would: 1) implement an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program/allocation; 2) establish IFQ permanent transferability of ownership; 3) establish IFQ temporary transferability of ownership; 4) establish IFQ share accumulation guidelines or limitations; 5) implement commercial trip limits in the part-time category; 6) address fees and cost recovery; 7) establish flexibility to revise/adjust the IFQ program; 8) establish IFQ reporting requirements; 9) modify the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) reporting requirements; 10) revise commercial vessel logbook reports; 11) address hook size restrictions in the commercial fishery; 12) implement recreational party/charter permits and reporting requirements; 13) implement recreational bag-size limits; 14) improve monitoring of tilefish commercial landings; 15) expand the list of management measures that can be adjusted via the framework adjustment process; 16) modify EFH designation; 17) modify HAPC (habitat areas of particular concern) designation; 18) implement measures to reduce gear impacts on EFH; and 19) establish methods for collecting royalties under a Tilefish IFQ system.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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